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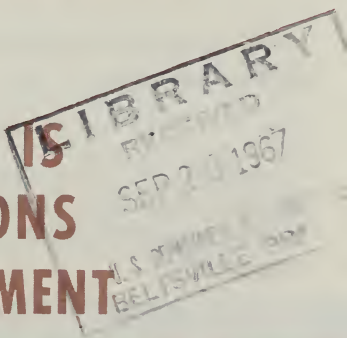
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THE PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT
AS IT APPLIES TO

LIVESTOCK DEALERS

WHAT IT IS
PROVISIONS
ENFORCEMENT



WHAT IT IS



The Packers and Stockyards Act is a Federal statute enacted in 1921, last amended in 1958, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



It regulates interstate commerce in livestock marketing.



In effect, it is a code of ethics for the livestock marketing and meat packing industries—setting out rules of fair business practice and competition.



It covers stockyards, auction markets, packers, market agencies, and dealers engaged in interstate livestock marketing.



It defines a market agency as: “Any person engaged in the business of (1) buying or selling in commerce livestock on a commission basis, or (2) furnishing stockyard services;”



And, a dealer as: “Any person, not a market agency, engaged in the business of buying or selling in commerce livestock, either on his own account or as the employee or agent of the vendor or purchaser.”



Farmers who buy or sell in the course of their farming, feeding, or ranching operations are not considered as dealers.

REGISTERING

The livestock dealer must register with the U.S. Department of Agriculture when:

1. Engaged in the business of buying or selling livestock in interstate commerce for his own account.
2. Dealing at a posted livestock market (one which has been found to be subject to the Act and at which notices to that effect have been posted).
3. When employed by a packer as a salaried buyer to buy livestock in commerce or at posted markets.

BONDING

Livestock dealers must file a bond (or a trust fund agreement based upon negotiable bonds of the U.S. Government) with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, except packer-buyers who buy only for slaughter purposes. The amount of these bonds is based upon the volume and type of an individual's business.



Registration application forms and sample bond forms may be obtained from P & S area offices or from the Packers and Stockyards Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250



WEIGHING

Dealers maintaining scales for the purpose of buying or selling livestock in commerce must:

1. Operate scales properly to give accurate weights.
2. Have scales tested by a competent agency at least twice a year.
3. Issue serially numbered scale tickets with printed weight values and retain a copy of each.

TRADE PRACTICES

Every dealer is prohibited from engaging in or using any unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive practices.

KEEPING RECORDS

All registered dealers, except packer-buyers, are required to maintain sufficient records to disclose the full nature of each transaction. (Packer-buyers are exempt from this requirement as their employers are responsible for keeping proper records.)



ENFORCEMENT



P & S Administration representatives visit posted livestock markets to make sure that compliance with the law is being carried out.

Violators may receive a warning, be ordered to cease and desist from violations, or, in serious cases, have their registration under the Act suspended—barring them from doing business for specific periods of time. When criminal violations are discovered they are referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

Anyone who feels he has been treated unfairly by anyone subject to the P & S Act may file a complaint. If he believes he has suffered loss or damages through such unfair treatment, he may file with any area office of the P & S Administration within 90 days of the transaction a written petition or complaint for reparation against a dealer, market agency, or stockyard operator.

PUBLICATIONS

Specific questions concerning the Act and its enforcement may be addressed to the Packers and Stockyards Administration area offices or the Washington headquarters. Available from the same sources are the following publications:

The Packers and Stockyards Act—What It Is—How It Operates (PA-399)

The Packers and Stockyards Act as it applies to Auction Markets (PA-809)

Questions and Answers on the Packers and Stockyards Act for Livestock Producers (PA-810)

Recordkeeping for Livestock Dealers Under the Packers and Stockyards Act (PA-590)

Your Livestock Claims (PA-591)



Packers and Stockyards Administration Area Offices and States Covered

Ariz., Calif., Nev.

405 Wilson Bldg.
5905 Pacific Blvd.
Huntington Park, Calif. 90256

Ill., Wis.

Live Stock Exchange Bldg.
Union Stock Yards
Chicago, Ill. 60609

Idaho, Ore., Wash.

208 Live Stock Exchange Bldg.
North Portland, Ore. 97043

Suboffice for Ill., Wis.

Livestock Exchange Bldg.
P.O. Box 186
National Stock Yards, Ill. 62071

Colo., Mont., N. Mex., Utah, Wyo.

406 Live Stock Exchange Bldg.
Denver, Colo. 80216

Ind., Ky., Mich., Ohio

70 Live Stock Exchange Bldg.
Indianapolis, Ind. 46221

Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak.

208 Post Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 297
South St. Paul, Minn. 55076

Ark., La., Miss., Tenn.

380 Federal Bldg.
167 North Main Street
Memphis, Tenn. 38103

Iowa, Nebr.

435 Live Stock Exchange Bldg.
Omaha, Nebr. 68107

Ala., Fla., Ga., N.C., S.C.

Room 309
1795 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

Suboffice for Iowa, Nebr.

224 Live Stock Exchange Bldg.
800 South Chambers Street
Sioux City, Iowa 51107

Conn., Maine, Mass., N.H., N.J.,
N.Y., Pa., R.I., Vt.

366 Industrial Office Bldg.
1060 Broad Street
Newark, N.J. 07102

Kans., Mo.

828 Live Stock Exchange Bldg.
Kansas City, Mo. 64102

Del., District of Columbia, Md.,
Va., W. Va.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

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Room 7A15 Fedl. Bldg.
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